JPRS 79185

9 October 1981

Worldwide Report

LAW OF THE SEA

No. 172

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BRIEFS

DENMARK FINES GDR FISHING CUTTERS--At the court at Nexø, two East German fishermen were last night fined 55,000 kroner for illegal fishing within the Danish fishing limits. The East German cutters, so-called stern trawlers, were yesterday morning seized in the Hanø Bay north of Christianssø by the Danish fisheries inspection vessel "the Herring Gull." The East German fishermen explained in court that they believed that they were fishing in Swedish waters, for which they hold a license. They substantiated their claims by means of official East German sailing directions which indicate the limits according to a straight-line principle, whereas the Danish limits follow a curved line. Torben Deleuran, shipbroker, Nexø, who safeguards the interests of East German fishermen on Bornholm, states that the fishermen will probably appeal the sentence. "The sentence is unjust. It ought to have taken into account that the fishermen did not fish illegally deliberately," Torben Deleuran says. It is 10 years since fishermen from the East Bloc countries were last seized on Bornholm. "The Herring Gull" seized the East German cutters at the request of the fisheries inspection office at Nexø. "Right now, the herring comes fairly close to Bornholm, and I have received several complaints from fishermen of Bornholm regarding the rude foreign fishermen. The foreigners always state that they believe that they are fishing in Swedish waters. But they have been fishing off Sweden for many years and often moor their vessels at Rønne. They, therefore, are well aware of the fact that Bornholm is Danish," E. Mortensen, fisheries assistant, Nexø, says. [Text] [Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 23 Sep 81 p 7] 7262

CSO: 5200/2001

NEW ZEALAND FIRM DENIES FLOODING AUSTRALIA WITH FISH

Christchurch PRESS in English 31 Aug 81 p 13

[Text] PA Wellington

A director of Fletcher Sovrybflot Fishing, Ltd. (Fletsof), Mr E. V. Henry, has denied that his company is "flooding" Australia with fish.

His comments follow recent reports from an Australian fishing magazine and New Zealand sources that this has been happening.

The Fishing Industry Board decided recently to send a representative across the Tasman to reopen investigations into complaints from Australian fishermen that the prices they are paid for their fish are being reduced because of imports from New Zealand.

Fletsof is a joint venture involving the New Zealand company, Fletcher Fishing, Ltd. and the Soviet Fisheries agency, V. O. Sovrybflot.

Mr Henry, who is managing director of Fletcher Fishing, said that he welcomed the Fishing Industry Board's initiative, and the Brisbane-based company which acts as Fletsof's Australian distributor had indicated that it would willingly assist the inquiry.

"The criticisms being levelled at our company are ludicrous when you look at the facts," he said.

"Admittedly, we aim to take a significant tonnage of greenweight fish, but 75 per cent of that weight is lost in processing into fillets and while we will doubtless supply several hundred tonnes of deep-sea perch to Australia over a period of some months this year, that is hardly "flooding" the market.

"We also reserve some of our total tonnage for export to other countries. For example, we hope to continue to sell to European and South-East Asian markets again this year.

Mr Henry said that there were five other big catches of deep-sea perch in New Zealand waters and 17 exporters of it to Australia. So far as he knew none of them was selling it cheaply.

It was regarded as a quality fish, filling a very specific segment of the Australian market where it displaced neither local nor other New Zealand fish, but was having an effect on imports from South Africa and Japan.

Its price markedly exceeded that of Australia's main catering fish, gemfish, and was sold into a different market slot, Mr Henry said.

"It is true that New Zealand increased its share of fish imported by Australia from 4617 tonnes to 5308 tonnes in the year to the end of May, and that the value of it went up by more than 35 per cent — but at a time when finfish imports from world-wide sources into that country had dropped by 7.4 per cent, according to latest fishing industry board figures," he said.

"Surely this shows that we are achieving these additional sales at the expense of other countries, not the Australian fishing industry."

CSO: 5200/9065

NEED SEEN TO CONTROL ANTARCTIC EXPLORATION

New Zealand To Host Preparatory Meeting

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 28 Aug 81 p 13

[Article by Geoff Mein]

[Text]

New Zealand is likely to host a crucial meeting of Antarctic Treaty nations next year to draft a regime aimed at controlling the exploitation of minerals in the southern continent.

The 14 Treaty nations ended their bi-annual consultative meeting in Buenos Aires last month with a recommendation to convene a special session next year to discuss the minerals issue. That meeting will probably be held in Argentina.

New Zealand has offered to host a preliminary meeting in March to prepare for the speical session on minerals. Sources expect the venue to be Wellington.

Deliberations at the consultative meeting in Argentina, most of which were made behind closed doors, focused on the exploration and exploitation of Antarctic minerals.

The mood among participating nations was that a regime to control exploitation of minerals was desirable, and that the sooner one could be concluded the better, according to Mr R. B. Thomson, a New Zealand delegate to the meeting.

Mr Thomson is superintendent of the D.S.I.R.'s Christchurch-based Antarctic division.

Although several representatives indicated that drawing up an accord on minerals would be delicate and time-consuming, Mr Thomson says there was some optimism that agreement could be reached next year, hopefully at the planned special session.

At the conclusion of last month's consultative meeting, member nations resolved to refer the minerals question back to their respective governments for them to formulate proposals.

The preparatory meeting in New Zealand will act as an important international forum for ironing out differences, and should give some indication of the likelihood of an early conclusion to the sought-after regime.

Mr Thomson sees the signing last year of a convention to protect marine life in the Antarctic as "blazing the trail" for the minerals regime to follow.

The marine convention, which allows for setting up seafood harvesting quotas and their monitoring by a commission representing all signatories, had to overcome several problems which would be encountered in setting up a mineral regime.

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The conclusion of a marine convention was prompted by fears of over-exploitation by growing commercial interests, and the expansion of krill industries.

Mr Thomson believes that a similar fear — about over-exploitation of non-renewable minerals — now necessitates an international regime.

He knows of "a number of activities in the Antarctic which could almost be described as commercial."

Sooner or later a resource would be found in exploitable quantities, and then such a regime might be too late.

One possible barrier to the early conclusion of a mineral regime is the uncertainty over the strength of territorial claims to the Antarctic. This issue — of particular interest to New Zealand, which claims sovereignty of the Ross Dependency — was widely discussed behind closed doors at the Argentina meeting.

Mr Thomson could not elaborate on in-committee discussions, but confirms that the claimant states (Argentina, Chile, Britain, Australia, France, New Zealand and Norway) are now speaking with one voice, and that they are "asking for something more than the non-claimant states."

Just how much more they sought, and how many concessions the non-claimant states (particularly the United States and the Soviet Union) were prepared to make, could hold the key.

Although various organisations, including the United Nations, have been suggested as appropriate forums for settling a minerals regime, Mr Thomson is convinced that the Antarctic Treaty offers the most hope.

He believes that if the issue was handled by the United Nations, there would be delays such as those experienced by countries seeking to negotiate a Law of the Sea (they are still trying after more than eight years).

"If you cannot get agreement with 14 Antarctic Treaty consultative parties, you are not going to get agreement with more than 150 countries in the United Nations."

Although most activity in the Antarctic remains outwardly scientific, rumblings of mineral exploitation are getting louder. There has been a corresponding decline in noise from those who advocated maintaining (at any cost) the continent as a science preserve.

Mr Thomson says that the Antarctic will always be a key area for the collection of world scientific data, but he expects other activities, such as commercial mineral exploitation and tourism, eventually to dominate the scene. The impact of such a change would probably not be felt before the next century.

New Zealand could expect to play an important role in any new Antarctic era — if only because of its geographic proximity, as a "gateway" to the southern continent.

During a recent visit to the United States, Mr Thomson discussed with representatives of the American National Science Foundation plans for research in the Antarctic over the next few decades.

Of priority to both countries is the adoption of an Antarctic Treaty directive urging members to step up drilling programmes aimed at establishing more accurately the continent's geological structure.

Such information, while benefiting science, would be of interest to mineral hunters, and helpful to those countries which are serious about the implementation of a minerals regime.

Potential for Catastrophe

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 28 Aug 81 p 13

[Article by Oliver Riddell]

[Text]

International agreement on mining in Antarctica means that the exploitation there of oil and other minerals can be expected to start within 20 years.

The beginning of this agreement was at Buenos Aires in July when the Antarctic Treaty nations—which include New Zealand—formally resolved to extract Antarctic minerals.

New Zealand is determined that its own interests are recognised and protected.

Antarctica is known to contain coal, natural gas, iron ore, copper, nickel, rock crystal, and even possibly diamonds. The oil potential has been estimated at 60 000 million barrels, and from the drilling operations already done in the Arctic the technology for exploration in the Antarctic is already available.

Rough costings have put the economics of oil extraction as little more than those already experienced offshore in the North sea and at Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

The opening of the new and much improved Oceanographic Institute building at Evans Bay, Wellington, is part of the New Zealand drive to equip itself for information on the Antarctic. New Zealand will need to make an even greater scientific commitment to the Antarctic than it has in the past.

There will be enormous environmental problems to overcome in exploiting Antarctica. Oil spills alone have the potential to cause catastrophic damage to the fragile environment there. A blowout in the Gulf of Mexico in 1979 released more than 100 000 tonnes of oil into the sea; the result of disaster of that scale in the Antarctic is increased by its atrocious climate.

Accidents are more serious in the Antarctic than elsewhere. The limited drilling season there means that if a blowout were not brought under control by the end of the summer, oil would continue to pour out unchecked for six months before another try could be made.

The Minister for the Environment (Dr Shearer) realises the potential for catastrophe. He has listed some major aspects of an oil spill there.

- A big oil spill could change the regional climate for weeks or months because of the effect of the slick on the formation of sea ice.
- The special conditions of the Antarctic would make it virtually impossible to return the waters to their original state; oil degrades much more slowly in the Antarctic because of the cold temperatures and, depending on the time of the year, the oil could become incorporated into pack ice.
- An oil slick which persisted in the Ross Sea area for some months would probably spread in summer along the coast of Victoria Land, with consequent devastating effects on coastal wildlife—particularly seabirds and seals.

Oil contamination could affect the vast krill resources of Antarctica which are being seen as a major world food resource of the future. Oil contamination could also affect the value of icebergs as a potential world source of fresh water.

Contamination and environmental damage must inevitably follow pipelines, storage tanks, airfields, port facilities, and a workforce that might reach 10,000 in the Ross Sea area alone.

The Government has set out three main principles for its Antarctic policy:

1. Any agreement providing for the exploitation of the Antarctic's resources must also ensure the widest possible protection to the fragile environment there.

2. There must be some accommodation between conflicting positions over the future of the Antarctic, as some countries claim sovereignty in the Antarctic, while others do not recognise these claims.

3. Any agreement must provide for nations other than existing Antarctic Treaty countries to become parties to the agreement.

Dr Shearer says that the Government believes, too, that the benefits of any mineral extraction should be shared more widely, perhaps through a form of revenue sharing with developing countries.

Estimated Number of Major Mineral Deposits

geologic province:	ANDEAN		ELLSWORTH		ROSS		SHIELD	
type	total	in exposed areas	total	in exposed areas	total	in exposed areas	total	in exposed areas
ferrous metals	60	25	90	10	10	06	138	03
base metals	175	75	56	07	10	06	69	01
precious metals	82	35	8	01	5	03	66	01
other (uranium, aluminum, tungsten, asbestos, etc.)	63	25	16	02	8	05	73	01
	380	160	170	20	33	20	346	06

OIL FIND SPURS BASS STRAIT DRILLING: SOME WELLS CAPPED

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 14 Aug 81 p 17

[Text]

MELBOURNE. — The Esso-BHP partnership appears to have found a new oil reservoir under the Snapper oil and gas field in Bass Strait, which started producing only last month.

BHP told stock exchanges yesterday that oil had been recovered during tests on the Snapper A21 well, below the main productive gas and oil reservoirs.

The news overshadowed the announcement that two Surat Basin wells being drilled by BHP's subsidiary Hematite Petroleum Pty Ltd had failed to find any hydrocarbons and that another Bass Strait well, Bream No 4, had now been abandoned due to "operational difficulties" reported earlier.

BHP said the most significant oil result from Snapper A21, a vertical hole from the Snapper platform, was the recovery of 5,700cc of oil at 1,701.5 metres.

Other hydrocarbons were recovered at 1,693 metres, 1,731 metres and 1,969 metres.

"Further evaluation is needed to determine /the commercial significance of these sands," the company said.

However with the Snapper field currently producing from three levels extending to only 1,400 metres, the latest drilling seems to indicate a completely separate structure, a spokesman said.

The well is drilling ahead at 3,089 metres with 9 5/8in casing run to 1,550 metres.

Bream No 4 was being drilled by the semi-submersible "Southern Cross," which is now drilling Palmer No 1, 1.5 kilometres north-north-east of Perch No 1 and 9 kilometres south-south-west of Dolphin No 1, in a water depth of 38 metres.

The well has reached 203 metres with programmed total depth of 1,700 metres.

Present plans are to move the Southern Cross back to spud Bream No 4A once casing has been run, BHP said.

In the Surat basin, where BHP resumed a drilling program in June, Byanbunnoo No 1 has been plugged and abandoned after reaching total depth of 1,795 and finding no hydrocarbons.

The rig is moving to drilling Riversleigh No 1, in the same area, 29 kilometres south of the Kincora gasfield.

Formosa Downs No 1 in ATP145P has also been plugged and abandoned after reaching total depth of 2,412 metres with no shows. The rig is moving to Hoolan Creek No 1, 11 kilometres west of Warroon No 1.

CSO: 5200/7554

BRIEFS

BANGLADESH-IRAQI FISHING PACT--Baghdad, August 16--Bangladesh Deputy Premier and Minister of Fisheries and Livestock Saifuddin Ahmed Bari today concluded a 5-day visit during which he signed an agreement for cooperation with Iraq in the field of fisheries, reports IINA. In a statement before leaving, Mr. Bari said he had discussed with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Iraqi officials means of consolidating bilateral cooperation. He hoped that the protocol for cooperation in fishing in the Bangladesh waters would promote bilateral relations. Mr. Bari earlier visited Kuwait. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Aug 81 p 12]

CSO: 5200/7064

BRIEFS

FOREIGN FISHING BILL--New Delhi, September 7--The Lok Sabha today unanimously adopted in quick succession two government bills, one to curb poaching by foreign fishing vessels in Indian waters and the other to take over Oil India and Assam Oil Company. Concern over the decline in fish exports, and extensive poaching by foreign vessels, was voiced by members who suggested, among other things, the creation of a separate ministry of fisheries. The minister for agriculture, Rao Birender Singh, who piloted the first bill, acknowledged that export earnings from fish exports had declined from Rs 240 crores to Rs 230 crores and said the fall was partly due to the protectionist policies of some countries. He announced a subsidy of 33.5 per cent for domestic manufacture of trawlers. At present India has only 57 trawlers, compared to the thousands owned by even small maritime countries. The salient features of the first bill are: no foreign vessel will be used for fishing in any maritime zone of India, except with a licence or permit; a foreigner will have to obtain a licence, and an Indian wishing to use a foreign vessel has to obtain a permit. The coast guard will have full powers to hold up or search such a vessel. The bill provides for heavy penalties for the use of any foreign vessel without a licence or a permit, and also for confiscation of the vessel. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 Sep 81 p 6]

CSO: 5200/7065

MALAYSIA AGAINST RENEGOTIATING DEEP SEA MINING ISSUES

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 28 Aug 81 p 20

[Text]

LIKE other countries in the Group of 77, Malaysia objects to any reopening of issues or renegotiations on deep sea-bed mining at forthcoming sessions of the Law of the Sea Conference.

The leader of the Malaysian delegation to the 10th session which ends in Geneva today, Datuk Abdullah bin Abdul Rahman, said this in a Press statement released yesterday. Datuk Abdullah is a Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department.

The entire draft convention, including the chapter relating to deep sea-bed mining, represents a delicately balanced package reflecting a fair compromise between the interests of the Group of 77 and the industrialised states. The Group cannot therefore, accept any reopening of issues concerning the most crucial part of the text, he said.

Taking the view that the provisions as they stand are unfair and discriminated against investors in deep sea-bed mining, the US has sought to renegotiate fundamental aspects of the text relating to deep sea-bed mining.

The objections of the US were heard during informal consultations specially convened for this purpose outside the formal conference framework, Datuk Abdullah said.

These informal discussions were suspended when the United States failed to respond to the request of the Group of 77 to submit a detailed record of its grievances to enable the Group to study them and respond suitably.

Having spent a great deal of time and money negotiating the complex issues pertaining to the law of the sea for the past seven years, Malaysia, as well as other countries of the Group, is anxious that this matter be resolved as quickly as possible.

In this context it is relevant to recall statements made by the chairman of the UN Law of the Sea Conference, Mr Tommy Koh, in Geneva on Wednesday to the effect that a sea law treaty would be adopted next spring regardless of US objections.

He believed US sea-bed mining companies would not be happy if their country stayed outside a treaty.

The likely consequences of a treaty excluding the US would be that American mining interest would be "sucked away" by European and Japanese companies in flag-of-convenience operations, he said.

The next session will be held in New York in March. Signing of the draft convention is scheduled to be held in September in Caracas, Venezuela.

A remaining hardcore issue at the conference is the question of a production limitation formula to protect land-based producers of the metals expected to be found in the deep sea-bed area.

Malaysia, as a producer of copper is concerned about this problem and would like to see an equitable formula included in the convention, Datuk Abdullah said.

CSO: 5200/8201

EDITORIAL SEES LOS NEGOTIATIONS HEADING FOR TROUBLE

Christchurch PRESS in English 18 Aug 81 p 20

[Editorial: "Trouble on Sea Law"]

[Text] The new round of the Law of the Sea negotiations appears to be heading for trouble. A draft treaty was within an ace of being agreed to earlier this year, but the new Reagan Administration then dismissed the entire United States delegation and instituted a review. It might have been expected that the new Administration would need some time to become familiar with the provisions of the draft treaty. But because the treaty has been under serious discussion since 1973, it might have also been expected that there would be some senior Republicans who would be familiar with the progress on the treaty. As it is the United States, either because it is unhappy about the contents of the draft treaty, or because it needs some time to do its homework, is holding up any conclusion. Until this latest move a consensus appeared close on practically every aspect. This was quite an accomplishment when 150 nations were engaged in the discussions.

The draft treaty has a number of sections. The one the United States has so far raised objections to concerns mining of the deep seabed. There are conflicting interests at work over the deep seabed, that is the seabed lying beyond any State's 200-mile zone. On the one hand there are few firms and few countries in the world which have the technology and the capital to invest in mining of the deep seabed. Probably only the United States, West Germany, and Japan are so equipped. Some of these firms feel that they should of right be able to mine the deep seabed for minerals. On the other hand, some countries consider that the deep seabed should be considered the "common heritage of mankind." The provisions of the draft treaty were a compromise between these two philosophies. The resources of the deep seabed were to be shared between an international organisation and various national concerns.

Because the clauses of the treaty which relate to the deep seabed are only part of the proposed treaty, it might seem possible to leave the clauses out. In practice, the consensus reached in such a negotiation comes about because some States will cede a point on one aspect for gains on another. For this reason, the treaty has to be looked at as a whole. There is the additional point that a number of the non-industrial countries consider that the provisions on the deep seabed are the most politically and ideologically important in the treaty. Failure to take account of aspirations on this issue may block agreement on others.

Just what the Americans object to in detail has not been made public. It seems, however, that they are more worried about how the treaty would work in practice than about the the idea of sharing resources. This might amount to no more than a feeling that, if an American company wants to mine a particular area, it should be allowed to do so for as long as it wishes. The question will then become one of whether the embodiment of such a principle will destroy the concept of the "common heritage of mankind."

New Zealand has long put a great deal of effort into the Law of the Sea negotiations. It has several interests at

stake. One is its own Exclusive Economic Zone and the fish and minerals within it. A second is the right of free passage through international straits. As a trading nation, New Zealand needs to feel that the ocean routes for trade are secure. The concern that New Zealand feels has been expressed by the New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Talboys, in a letter to the American Secretary of State, Mr Haig. Some of the contents of this letter were printed in an article by Mr Talboys in the latest issue of the "International Review," the official journal of the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs.

Mr Talboys outlined the need to treat the draft convention as a package deal and he urged the United States Administration to weigh the benefits to be had from the rules governing the passage of vessels through international straits against certain disadvantageous provisions for commercial mining. Mr Haig was told that the draft represented major gains for New Zealand, "particularly in the area of offshore resource jurisdiction over fisheries and minerals." Mr Talboys noted in his letter that a review by the United States seeking changes that would place the successful conclusion of the conference in jeopardy "would be of great concern to New Zealand." New Zealand's objections to the upsetting of the draft were made clear enough and they must have been repeated when the subject was raised later in discussions of the A.N.Z.U.S. Ministerial Council meeting in Wellington. The United States seemed responsive, but the present Geneva meeting has gone a long way to set back the earlier hopes that the American objection to the draft treaty would be short-lived.

CSO: 5200/9066

FISHING INDUSTRY BOARD ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT

Export Volume Grows

Auckland NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 2 Sep 81 p 3

[Text]

New Zealand exported 110,460 tonnes of fish, worth $162.4 million, last year.

But the Fishing Industry Board says in its annual report the growth was reflected more in volume (20,000 tonnes over 1979) than in value.

The main markets were Japan ($62 million), Australia ($30 million) and the United States ($24 million).

The domestic market took $49 million worth and consumption rose to 12.04 kilograms for every New Zealander.

New Zealand joint ventures caught 102,000 tonnes and contributed $62 million to export earnings.

The board deputy chairman, Mr B. L. Lyons, says most joint ventures have shown a willingness to increase the New Zealand content of their operations but profitability levels prevent any rapid moves.

The lack of profitability was the main reason for increasing tension in the industry last year.

Although during the past 10 years the industry has increased its earnings almost 10-fold the board believes short-term price support for a range of fisheries is needed. This is due to the prolonged stagnation in world fish prices and help for local fishermen to adapt to deeper-water fishing.

In an intensely competitive environment where each new entry into the industry subtracts from the profitability of those already fishing, the survivors are likely to be those who are prepared to fish illegally.

The board has co-operated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries regarding controls on scallop and eel fishing and in the implementation of a controlled rock lobster fishery.

But it says that total control is necessary.

Development Outlined

Wellington EVENING POST in English 2 Sep 81 p 18

[Text]

ABOUT 5100 jobs will be created, and $160 million invested in vessels and processing facilities, if a programme to develop the New Zealand fishing industry is carried out over the next 10 years.

The New Zealand Fishing Industry Board discusses the "achievable growth scenario" in its annual report, tabled in Parliament.

The board two years ago started to prepare a "detailed overview" of the industry, and says the main points of the 10-year programme are:

Increasing the domestic industry's total production to about 380,000 tonnes from the present 110,000.

Increasing the total value of production to about $325 million per year at current prices, with 70 percent attributable to the New Zealand-operated fleet. Exports would rise to $275-$300 million per year at 1980 prices.

Investing capital of about $160 million in vessels and shore processing facilities to achieve the growth.

Creating 800 jobs at sea and 4300 on shore.

Creating $200 million worth of work for shipbuilders and repair yards over 10 years, if half the vessels required for the expansion are built in New Zealand.

A yield of $45 million for the construction industry, $100 million for the packaging industry and $30 million for the refrigeration industry.

The study is being used by the board for a cost-benefit analysis which will evaluate government assistance options. It is being considered alongside the industry's main development study.

The report says that hotels, restaurants and caterers have pushed up New Zealanders' consumption of fish, but the traditional fish shop's sales have meantime declined.

Over the last five years there has been an upsurge in the range of restaurants and the variety and quality of seafood dishes on their menus, the board says.

"Research indicates that diners are more likely to choose seafood when they eat out than to buy it to cook at home.

"A major reason for the decline in the sales through domestic retail shops is that over the last decade there has been an increasing tendency for one-stop shopping. Supermarkets, in general, have not expanded their frozen food counters to include fish."

In 1970 New Zealanders each consumed 10.10 kilograms of fish. The figure declined in 1973, 1976 and 1977, but rose to 11.88kg in 1978 and 12.04kg in 1979.

The estimated wholesale value of domestic fisheries sales in 1980 was $40 million — 20 percent of the total market of New Zealand fish products.

Major studies undertaken by universities confirmed that freshness was of paramount importance to consumers, and that there was uncertainty about quality in some lines — including fish and chips, fresh fish and frozen fish.

CSO: 5200/9066

OFFSHORE OIL PROSPECTING ON EAST COAST TO BE LICENSED

Christchurch PRESS in English 26 Aug 81 p 2

[Text]

PA Wellington

The Ministry of Energy will licence oil prospecting offshore and onshore on the east coast of New Zealand.

The third round of licensing, announced yesterday by the Minister of Energy (Mr Birch) follows up the issue of licences off Taranaki and the West Coast of the South Island, and to the south and south-east of the South Island.

Announcing yesterday the new licence block to a Victoria University symposium on petroleum geology, Mr Birch said offshore drilling would start in earnest towards the end of next year "with wells being drilled back to back."

Drilling activity at this level was likely to continue at least at this rate "for many years to come," he said.

"It is hoped and expected that the momentum of interest built up over the first round will be sustained in the second and third rounds at present under consideration," Mr Birch said.

The first round had resulted in the issue of 16 prospecting licences, mostly for five years.

CSO: 5200/9066

OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH COMMITTEE RECONSTITUTED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 14 Sep 81 p 3

[Text] The National Committee on oceanographic Research has been reconstituted by the Federal Ministry of Education, it was officially announced in Karachi.

The Hydergrapher, Naval Headquarters, Islamabad, is the convenor of the ten-member committee.

The functions of the committee are to provide guidelines and suggest priorities for mission oriented multi-disciplinary research in physical biological, geological and chemical oceanography of Pakistan's marine areas.

It will also propose national level arrangements for collecting oceanographic information and data about Pakistan Maritime zones required from time to time for optimum utilization of both renewable and nonrenewable marine resources.

The other functions of the committee are:

(A) To make recommendation with regard to training of necessary manpower in Pakistan expertise in various disciplines of marine research.

(B) To advise the PNCU and other national agencies on coastal projects as far as practical.

(C) To coordinate and maintain liaison with the international organizations and foreign oceanographic/marine research committees and organizations for mutual benefit.

(D) The committee will actively collaborate with the other national agencies concerned with the preservation/marine environments/managements of marine resources.

(E) To propose measures for increasing self-reliance in oceanographic research and its utilization in the service of Pakistan.

(F) To organize seminars/ workshops and national, regional and international meetings on aspects related to oceanographic research.--APP

CSO: 5200/4502

BRIEFS

ARREST OF HONDURANS--A group of 44 Honduran fishermen and their vessel, the "MFV Apollo" were arrested on Thursday by the Jamaica Defence Force Coast Guard, and charged with illegal entry and fishing in Jamaican territorial waters. The Hondurans were yesterday in custody of the Marine Police at Newport East where they were taken in the morning by the Coast Guard and handed over for formal arrest and charged. A source from the Coast Guard said that the 44 Hondurans aboard their United States-registered shrimper, were apprehended by the patrol boat, H.M.J.S. "Manatee Bay" as they fished about 3/4 mile east of the Northeast Morant Cay. The crew did not resist. The fishermen were taken to Kingston and the Honduran Consulate informed of their arrest. They will face the court next week, the source said. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 5 Sep 81 p 16]

CSO: 5200/7501

FISHING AGREEMENT, DEVELOPMENT NOTED

London WEST AFRICA in English No 3344, 31 Aug 81 p 1976

[Excerpt from Matchet's "Diary" column]

[Excerpt] FINALLY, it was quite difficult to find in the financial gloom of Freetown a cheerful commercial story. But down at Kissy Docks I was happy to be shown around the premises of the booming and successful Sierra Fishing Company. Fish are the new diamonds of Sierra Leone, one enthusiastic commentator has said.

Prosperity has come where there were seedy and broken-down companies going bankrupt largely because of the enterprise of Jamil Mohammed — Jamil being a name behind many Sierra Leone enterprises. The company is 25 per cent government-owned. Of the rest the National Development Bank owns 10 per cent, Fran Sov 20 per cent (it is a Franco-Soviet company, as might be imagined) and individual Sierra Leonean shareholders (including Jamil) own the remaining 45 per cent.

The company now handles the catch brought in by 12 Russian trawlers (a complicated deal, but very profitable for Sierra Leone) and operates 13 shrimp boats of its own. It has placed an order for seven fishing vessels from the US, smaller than the Russian trawlers but to fish the same deep-sea grounds. About 15m. leones has been invested in the infrastructure, and the total turnover is now about 7m. leones a year. This includes 70 to 80 tons of shrimps a month, almost all of it for export, and between 1,000 and 1,500 tons of fish, mostly sold in Sierra Leone, although 300 tons go to Liberia and a large amount of sardinella goes to Abidjan, where it is a highly-sought-after table fish (Sierra Leoneans will not eat it at all).

It was most interesting to watch the shrimps coming in off the boats, being washed in a weak chlorine solution, being inspected on a light table for intrusive sea urchins, then graded for size and quality, entirely by eye, and packed into boxes and frozen for dispatch around the world.

Mr. Sanusi Dean, the company secretary, told me that the company is planning to expand with a fish-smoking plant in Murray Town and will also make fishing nets. Its part of Kissy Docks is an energetic place, full of hope for the future.

CSO: 5200/5601

PROTECTION OF FISHING RESOURCES URGED

Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 16 Sep 81 p 6

[Text]

STRONG pleas for protection of South Africa's fishing resources, and in particular crayfish and perlemoen, were made during the debate on the fisheries portfolio yesterday.

Both Government and Opposition MP's who served on the Treurnicht Commission of Inquiry into the industry directed appeals to the new Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr Pietie du Plessis, to implement the commission's recommendations.

They referred specifically to the finding that nearly all South Africa's most important marine resources were overfished, and some were in great danger of being fished out.

Mr Du Plessis did not reply in detail to the pleas, but said a white paper setting out the Government's position on all the commission's recommendations would be tabled within the next few weeks.

He hoped the introduction of the 200 sea-mile limit would improve control and help conserve a valuable resource for future generations.

The Opposition spokesman on agriculture and fisheries, Mr Philip Myburgh (PFP, Wynberg) called for action to stop overexploitation of deep-sea fishing resources by foreign vessels.

He also said that exploitation of crayfish and perlemoen resources had reached alarming proportions, with few hotels obtaining their supplies legally.

Mr Myburgh and Mr John Wiley (NP, Simon's town) referred to the commission's recommendation that 25 percent of the crayfish quota and half the perlemoen quota be marketed locally.

Mr Wiley pleaded in particular for cuts in the quotas of large kreef and perlemoen quota holders. He said both these resources were in danger of being wiped out, and it was the large quota holders who had benefited from over-exploitation.

If there were overall quota cuts, the one group holding the quota for 60 percent of West Coast kreef would benefit as smaller operators would be bought out or be put out of business.

"Quota holders have made millions out of exploiting the product that others — the catchers and the divers — have been forced to sell to them as the sole concession holders.

"Let them too make a sacrifice by selling kreef and perlemoen on the local market at local prices," Mr Wiley said.

CSO: 5200/5603

NORWAY ACCUSES EEC OF OVERFISHING MACKEREL QUOTA

PM301139 Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 26 Sep 81 p 9

[Report by Ulf Peter Hellstroem: "EEC Breaks Mackerel Quota"]

[Text] Norway no longer feels itself bound by the mackerel quota agreement it had with the EEC. This is made clear by a protest note delivered in Brussels Thursday [24 September]. In it Norway protests against the gross overfishing by EEC ships in the Norwegian section of the North Sea.

"It is clear that it is frustrating for the Norwegian fisheries authorities to see the EEC continually breaking quota agreements it has concluded," Fisheries Ministry Secretary of State Ivan Kristoffersen told AFTENPOSTEN. "In the present agreement the EEC had a quota of 8,900 tons of mackerel. This quota has been overfished by 140 percent. In the protest note Norway stresses that it is disappointed that this has happened despite assurances that the agreement would be kept. This could mean that the EEC will not have a mackerel quota at all in 1982, or that this year's overfishing will be deducted from next year's quota.

"The fisheries agreement with the EEC is made to secure Norwegian fishing interests in the EEC's zone and not least to get the EEC nations to agree to some reasonable protection for the fish resources in the North Sea. This is why it is most regrettable that the EEC does not respect the treaties," Kristoffersen said.

According to reports to AFTENPOSTEN, the Fisheries Ministry does not want to increase the quota for Norwegian fishermen because there is so little mackerel.

"This is an extremely regrettable situation. Over the years the EEC has shown that it cannot keep its own house in order. What is called an EEC fisheries policy is a free-for-all fight. The result is that the EEC is not a responsible partner in an agreement. In the light of this it is completely correct for the Norwegian authorities to terminate the mackerel agreement," Norwegian Fisheries Federation chairman Johan J. Toft told AFTENPOSTEN.

"Fisheries agreements with the EEC have been a case of making a virture of a necessity in order to protect resources, but such considerations seem to play a lesser role for the EEC. It is quite possible to ask if there is any point in making any agreements with the EEC in the future. In my opinion the whole of this complex question should be looked into again," said Toft, who thinks that it would be dangerous to increase Norwegian fishermen's mackerel quotas.

CSO: 5200/2002

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTES IN FAVOR OF TERRITORIAL WATERS ISSUE

Athens ATHENS NEWS in English 19 Sep 81 pp 1, 12

[Text] The European Parliament yesterday unanimously voted to recognize preferential status for the territorial waters, economic zone and continental shelf of the Greek islands, to define continental shelfs in terms of exploitation possibilities as well, as in terms of the seabed, and to include the island's continental shelf in the Community's customs territory.

Endorsing a report by French Euro-MP, Mrs. Fourcade, the European Parliament upheld Greek views and struck a serious blow to Turkish claims that islands should not have their own continental shelf.

Several Euro-MPs during yesterdays debate, the Athens News Agency (ANA) reports from Strasbourg, condemned Turkish attempts to influence the Parliaments decision.

Among them, Messrs. Johnson (British Conservative) and Pianela (Technical Coordinator) who asked that the Parliament ignore the memorandum.

All political groupings at the European Parliament endorsed the report without reservations, with the exception of Greek Communist Party representative Mr. Kappos, who voted in favor but with the reservation that his party does not recognize in EEC organs a role of arbitration in relations between nations.

Former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, who is a member of the European Parliament, left the chamber early and was not present in the final vote. European Commissioner, Mr. Dalsaguer, opposed the section defining continental shelf and incorporating it in the Community's customs territory.

TURK OBJECTIONS

The resolution calls on the EEC to include the continental shelf in its definition of the EEC territory. Turkish diplomats argue that to do so would leave Turkey with virtually no outlet to the sea near some Greek islands in the Aegean close to the Turkish coast.

It would also deprive Turkey, according to the diplomats, of possible oil and other resources that may be discovered in undersea exploration. The border between the two countries in the Aegean now lies equidistant from each country's coast.

The Common Market's founding treaty gives a specific political definition of the European Community but fails to provide a precise definition of it in territorial terms. Turkish diplomats here this week were telling European Parliamentarians that Greece, which joined the EEC in January, is trying to exploit its EEC membership to further its own territorial aims.

Turkey is not a Common Market member.

The Parliament's External Economic Relations Committee, which drew up the resolution, based its argument for including the continental shelf in EEC territory in part on the Geneva Convention, which says that "the coastal state exercises over the continental shelf sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring it and exploiting its natural resources."

Greek diplomats had been equally busy arguing this week in favor of the Parliaments proposed resolution saying it is in the EEC's best interest to have a precise definition of its territorial limits.

PRESS COMMENTS

Before the announcement of the final vote in the European Parliament, the Turkish press was giving wide coverage to the reactions the Fourcade report was causing in Turkey.

The daily "Tercuman" predicted that, despite the lobbying by Turkey's representatives Inan and Keskin, the European Parliament would endorse the report with a clear majority. The same

paper reported, quoting political sources, that many of the Euro-MPs are not aware that the report reflects Greek positions.

"Gun Ayidin", on its part, offered the view that the vote of many Euro-MPs would be influenced by their having been offered free vacations in the Greek islands this summer. It predicted that, even if endorsed by the European Parliament, the report would have no chance of being approved by the Council of Europe.

The issue was also the subject of an editorial in the daily "Milliyet," signed by political commentator Sohal political commentator Sohal.

Turkey, the article said, has already warned friends and foes that it would consider as cause of war an extension of Greece's territorial waters to 12 miles. Even [illegible] present 6 mile limit, Mr. Sohal wrote, Greek territorial waters constitute 36 per cent of the Aegean Sea, and Turkish waters only 11 per cent with the remaining 54 per cent being international waters. An extension to 12 miles would bring 63 per cent of the Aegean under Greek sovereignty, leaving only 28 per cent as international waters.

The Fourcade report was the lead story in Turkish Televisions Thursday evening newscast. Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen, who is currently on an official visit to London, was quoted as saying that an endorsement of the report by the European Parliament would not have any validity for Turkey.

The newscast also said a letter explaining Turkish positions on the issue had been distributed to Members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg before the final vote. The letter argued, inter alia, that the EEC has adopted a policy of non-intervention in Greek-Turkish differences, and called on the Community to continue "the balanced and constructive" attitude it had up to now maintained concerning Greek-Turkish dialogue.

From Ankara, meanwhile, UPI reports:

Members of the defunct Turkish National Assembly could participate in the North Atlantic Assembly meeting scheduled for Oct. 1F in Munich: a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday.

The Assembly, composed of delegates from NATO countries, expressed reservations about continuing Turkey's membership in the Assembly after the military takeover Sept. 12 last year.

At the moment, there is no technical obstacle to keep Turkish lawmakers — whose Assembly membership was extended until Nov. 1 — from taking part in the Munich meeting, a Ministry spokesman said.

A number of diplomats, including Assembly President Jack Brooks, a U.S. Congressman, have visited Turkey to discuss with government officials ways of retaining Turkeys membership in the Assembly.

Turkey's membership was extended by an earlier NATO Assembly committee meeting in Washington last March, but there is no way from a technical point for another extension.

It was not known if Turkey would accept observer status after the termination of its membership.

CSO: 5200/5300

TERRITORIAL WATERS ISSUES SPARK TURKISH WARINESS

Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish 14 Sep 81 p 8

[Text] It has been determined that Syria's extending its territorial waters from 12 to 35 miles by means of a new law has "greatly disturbed Turkey." According to information gathered by a Mediterranean News Agency reporter, there still has been no response to a directive sent Turkey's Damascus embassy regarding discussion of this situation with Syrian officials and clarification of how this decision came about.

Moreover, initial determinations made on a maritime map in Ankara apparently have shown that Syria's new 35-mile territorial limit includes all the international waters and a segment of Turkish territorial waters which are still 12 miles. In order to completely clarify the situation, Turkish officials are awaiting the dispatch from Damascus of a maritime map accurately depicting the 35-mile delimitation as well as a copy of the Syrian law.

On the other hand, Ankara diplomatic circles are of the view that certain international strategems may be the behind-the-scenes motivation for Syria's unprovoked extension of its territorial waters to 35 miles. These circles point out that the decision emerged out of tensions between Libya and the US and shortly after the downing of Libyan aircraft by US fighters. They further state, "It is possible that in the wake of this decision Libya may some time hence announce the extension of its current 12-mile territorial waters, but this should not come as a surprise."

According to information gathered by a Mediterranean News Agency reporter, Turkey has further increased its sensitivity with respest to the Aegean in the face of Syria's decision. Although countries attending the Law of the Sea Conference agreed to hold their territorial waters to 12 miles, Turkey has expressed its opposition to this principle by stating, "This status is not applicable in certain seas." Turkey expressed its opposition bearing in mind the Aegean. As is known, Greece has long maintained the intention of extending its Aegean territorial waters to 12 miles, but it has refrained from doing so for political reasons and in the face of Turkey's hard line.

Ankara diplomatic circles whose views we solicited stated that it is impossible that Greece will make such a decision before the Law of the Sea Conference concludes. They said, in summary, "Even if we say the Law of the Sea Conference will conclude its work in March, Greece cannot just simply extend its Aegean territorial waters to 12 miles. If it should make this decision, it will also expand its airspace for 10 miles--which Turkey does not recognize--to 12 miles. The upshot of this bivalve situation will be to drag Turkey and Greece into circumstances with unforeseeable results.

CSO: 5200/5504 END

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